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NO. 6,239. SATURDAY—Fair. Copyright, 1899, By New York Journal and Advertiser. NEW YORK, DECEMBER 16, 1899.—16 PAGES. SATURDAY—Fair. PRICE ONE CENT In Greater New York; Elsewhere, and Jersey City, TWO CENTS.

GEN. BULLER BEATEN BACK AT THE TUGELA. HE LOSES ELEVEN GUNS AND MANY OF HIS MEN.

The Hero of Many Wars, to Whom England Looked to Retrieve the Losses She Has Sustained in South Africa. Has Followed White, Gatacre and Methuen to Defeat in His Effort to Relieve Ladysmith.

LONDON, Dec. 16, 12:47 a. m.—The War Office has received a dispatch announcing that General Buller has met with a serious reverse, losing ten guns captured, and one destroyed.

General Buller was attempting to cross the Tugela River. Finding it impossible to effect his object, he ordered a retirement in order to avoid greater losses.

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LONDON, Dec. 16.—An official dispatch from Buller, dated Chievely Camp, Dec. 15, says:

"I regret to report a serious reverse. I moved in full strength from our camp near Chievely this morning at 4 o'clock.

"There are two fordable places in the Tugela River about two miles apart. It was my intention to force one or the other with one brigade, supported by a central brigade. General Hart was to attack the left drift, Hildyard the right road, with Lyttleton in the centre to support either.

"Early in the day I saw Hart would be unable to force a passage and directed him to withdraw. He had, however, attacked with great gallantry. His leading battalion, the Connaught Rangers, I fear suffered a great deal. Colonel Brooke was severely wounded.

"I then ordered Hildyard to advance, which he did. His leading regiment, the East Surrey, occupied Colenso Station and houses near the bridge. At that moment I heard that the whole of the artillery I had sent back to that attack—Fourteenth and Sixty-sixth field batteries and six naval 12-pounder quick-firing guns, the whole under Colonel Long—were out of action.

"Colonel Long, in his desire to be within effective range, advanced close to the river. It proved to be full of the enemy, who suddenly opened a galling fire at close range, killing all their horses. The gunners were compelled to stand to their guns. Some of the wagon teams got shelter for the troops in a donga or gully.

ONLY TWO OF THE GUNS WERE SAVED.

"Desperate efforts were made to bring out the field guns, but the fire was too severe. Only two were saved by Captain Schofield, and some drivers, whose names I will furnish.

"Another most gallant attempt was made with three teams by an officer whose name I will obtain. Of eighteen horses thirteen were killed. Several drivers were wounded. I would not allow another attempt, as it seemed they would be only marks for shells, thus sacrificing life in a gallant attempt to force a passage unsupported by artillery. I directed the troops to withdraw, which they did in good order.

"Throughout the day a considerable force of the enemy was pressing on my right flank, but they were kept back by mounted men under Lord Dundonald and part of General Barton's brigade.

THE DAY FEARFULLY HOT AND TRYING. Z 158

"The day was intensely hot and most trying to the troops, whose conduct was excellent. We have abandoned ten guns and lost one by shell fire.

"The losses in General Hart's brigade I fear are heavy, though the proportion of severely wounded is, I hope, not large. The Fourteenth and Sixty-sixth field batteries also suffered severe losses. We have retired to Camp Chievely.

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LONDON, Dec. 15.—The immediate effect of Buller's defeat will be the mobilization of England's whole naval and military power. All the reserves will be summoned to their colors. The entire militia will be called into service. Every ship in the navy will be commissioned as a warning to European powers to keep their hands off.

The Cape Colonists, who have been sympathizing more or less secretly with the Boers, will now undoubtedly rise in open defiance of British rule in many parts of South Africa. European nations are certain to give at least moral support to the Boers.

Russia Now the Menace.

How far France, Russia and Austria will go no one can tell. Russia is certain to take advantage of the opportunity to push closer

to the borders of India, and France will do the same in Northern Africa.

The news of this third disaster was only known to-night in the English newspaper offices.

When the people read it in the morning there will be a stunning effect for the moment, then a clamor.

What direction this outburst of public sentiment will take is beyond prophecy. Already there has been

grumbling against the War Office's delays in efficiency. The storm is certain to break first on Lansdowne's head. All the editors' your correspondent has been able to reach to-night express two fears: A rising in South Africa and Continental complications. There was only time for the briefest comments in the morning papers. The Post says:

Defeat Seemed Impossible.

"The nation to a man has been awaiting news of the relief of Ladysmith and the success of Buller's force. Disaster to this column seemed beyond possibility, to the man in the street, for on the victory

of Buller's troops he had pinned his faith. The British people have shown so far their good sense by taking the bad with the good. They much accept this reverse with the calm that has already proved their worth. It is the duty to-day of every Englishman to bear himself as a true man in his adversity."

Reinforcements Rushed.

High Government officials were routed out of bed with the news. Some hastened to the War Office without a moment's delay. Orders were issued to strain every nerve to get the Sixth Division on the way to the Cape, at once followed by the Seventh as fast as the men could

be loaded on ships.

The Telegraph says:

"The moral fibre of the British Empire is now being tested as it has not been since the Crimean war and the Indian mutiny. We passed then through a time of terrible storm and stress. The present trial will surely not find us wanting."

"An overwhelming force is required in South Africa. It is necessary to convince not only the Transvaal and Free State Boers by victory in the field of the supremacy of British arms, but teach the same lesson, by a mere display of irresistible power, to the Dutch in Cape Colony and to our Continent-

tal critics who are skeptical as to the strength of our military resources."

And How About Methuen?

There has been no news of Methuen for two days. Already Boer reports are afloat that the fighting was renewed at Modder River. The feelings of the imprisoned armies in Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking must be growing hopeless. The news of disastrous defeats—Methuen, Gatacre, and, last of all, Buller—must have reached them from exultant Boers.

The outlook is blue for the beleaguered garrisons. Ladysmith appears to be in most desperate straits, and news of its fall will not be surprising.

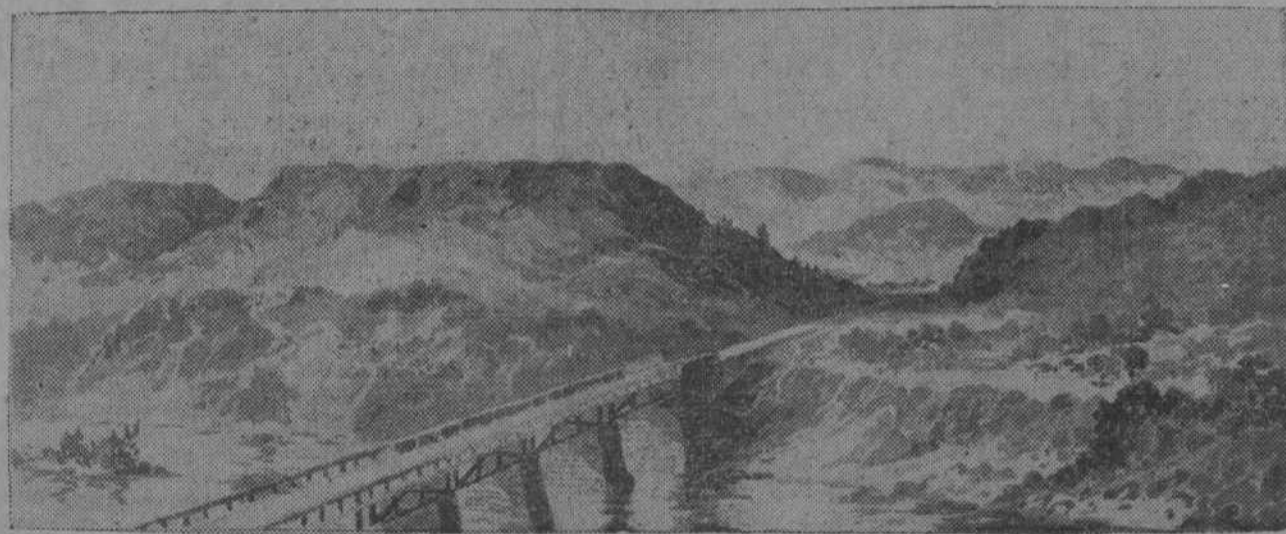
113,000 Militia to Be Sent.

England's militia strength is 124 battalions, numbering 113,000 men. Forty thousand are already mobilizing for home garrison duty in order that the regulars may go to Africa. The remainder will undoubtedly be called out and sent on foreign service, relieving the regulars in India, Gibraltar and the various colonies. This will draw into the service the very best young men in England, whose militia regiments are composed of the same quality as America's.

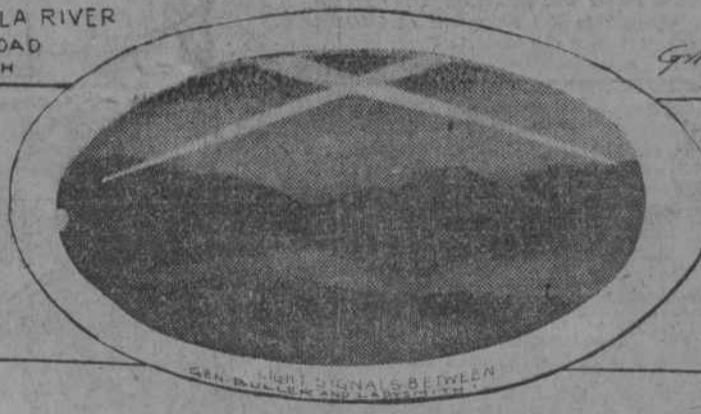
The Standard declares:

"The country has discovered with annoyance and surprise that the task of subduing the Boer farmers is likely to prove the most difficult warlike operation since the Indian mutiny."

"It is only doing the burghers bare justice to say they have proved themselves brave and astute men."



THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE TUGELA RIVER
AT COLENZO ON THE ROAD
TO LADYSMITH



VIEW OF LADYSMITH

(FROM BLACK & WHITE)

Scene of General Buller's Reverse at the Tugela River.

The bridge at Colenso had been destroyed by the Boers early in the campaign. There are two fords, and across these General Buller tried to advance to the relief of Ladysmith, with which he had been exchanging heliographic signals. He lost eleven guns at one of the fords and was compelled to retire. He cables that his loss was very heavy, but gives no figures.

ENGLAND WILL CALL HER ENTIRE FIGHTING FORCE.

Navy, as Well as Army, Militia and Volunteers Will Be Mobilized—Cape Colony Dutch Are Almost Certain to Rebel Now—London Papers Express the Country's Grief.

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